

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/711,669
Docket No.: 14146-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of Application

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed on Jan. 08, 2007. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yasuda (US 2004/0239887; hereinafter Yasuda). Claim 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Shoji et al. (US 6,734,641; hereinafter Shoji). Claims 8, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda in view of Kim (US 5,616,988; hereinafter Kim). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Kim.

In response to the current Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8, support for which can be found throughout the disclosure and drawings. Further, Applicants have also amended claim 12 that was objected to because of incorrect dependency.

Office Action Objections

Claim 12 is rejected to because of incorrect dependency.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 12, and submit now claim 12 properly depends on claim 8, and thus being ready for allowance.

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Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yasuda.

In response to the rejections thereto, Applicants have amended claim 1 and hereby otherwise traverse these rejections. As such, Applicants submit that the method, as set forth in claims 1, and its dependent claims 5-6 is novel and unobvious over Yasuda, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

With respect to amended claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method for managing a lamp brightness, suitable for use in a displaying apparatus using a lamp to produce an image, the method comprising:

presetting a selection item corresponding to a predetermined mode from a first mode and a second mode, wherein a brightness of the lamp at the first mode is different from the brightness at the second mode;

searching a display signal, wherein the displaying apparatus is at one of a displaying state, a searching state, a no-signal state, and a video mute state, wherein the display signal exists when the displaying apparatus is at the displaying state;

setting the lamp to the first mode when the display signal exists and when the predetermined mode is the first mode, and *automatically setting the lamp from the first mode to the second mode when the display signal does not exist*; and

setting the lamp to the second mode when the display signal exists and when the predetermined mode is the second mode, and *maintaining the lamp to the second mode when the display signal does not exist. (Emphasis Added)*

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In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner relies on the teaching of Yasuda in paragraph 0030, that is "[A] user can switch from the normal mode to the standby mode by operating a remote control, a mina switch on the projector, or a display switch on a menu image projected on the screen" to read on the "setting a selection item" limitation as previously presented. Similarly, the Examiner relies on a user to operate apparatus provided by Yasuda, addressing "setting the lamp to the first mode ..." and "setting the lamp to the second mode ..." limitations. Applicants submit this is inappropriate.

Applicants submit that even though Yasuda teaches a user can perform some operations, such operations are optional to be performed. In other words, whether to perform the operations are determined by the user. Applicants submit that "a user's could be action" does not deem for anticipation to the claimed invention, in which each and every limitation is compulsory.

For more clearly identifying the present invention from Yasuda, Applicants have amended claim 1. Now the selection item previously presented in claim 1 is further defined as being preset to corresponds to a predetermined mode from a first mode and a second mode. **As presented in claim 1, the selection item is preset to correspond to a mode (i.e. a first mode or a second mode) and such mode is determined in advance before switching or setting the operation mode of the lamp.** Applicants submit a user disclosed in Yasuda would not be able to preset a selection item that corresponds to a predetermined mode from the disclosure of Yasuda. Furthermore, as currently amended,

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the claimed invention contains the limitation of "*automatically setting the lamp from the first mode to the second mode* when the display signal does not exist" even the selection item is preset to the first mode. Applicants submit that automatically setting process sufficiently excludes any possible anticipation rejection by Yasuda since the mode changed from the normal mode to the standby mode in Yasuda is controlled by the user's discretion and option without considering whether the display signal exists or not.

Additionally, as currently amended, if the selection item is preset to the predetermined mode and the predetermined mode is the second mode, the lamp would be set in the second mode and continue to set in the second mode whether the display signal exist or not. However, Applicants submit that Yasuda fails to disclose or teach such features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and its dependent claims 5 and 6 are novel and unobvious over Yasuda, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Shoji et al. (US 6,734,641; hereinafter Shoji).

Applicants submit that claim 7 indirectly depends on allowable independent claims 1, and thus should also be allowable.

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Claims 8, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda in view of Kim.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 8, and hereby otherwise traverse these rejections.

With respect to claim 8, as currently amended, recites:

A method for managing a lamp brightness, suitable for use in a displaying apparatus using a lamp to produce an image, the method comprising:

searching a display signal, wherein the displaying apparatus is at one of a displaying state, a searching state, a no-signal state, and a video mute state, wherein the display signal exists when the displaying apparatus is at the displaying state;

determining the state of the displaying apparatus; and

setting the lamp to a first mode when the display signal does exist, and automatically setting the lamp from the first mode to a second mode when the display signal does not exist.

wherein the brightness of the lamp at the first mode is different from the brightness at the second mode.

(Emphasis added)

As currently amended, claim 8 now contains the limitations of "searching a display signal" and "determining the state of the displaying apparatus" which are neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Yasuda, Kim, or any of the other cited references. Specifically, as disclosed in Paragraph [0030] and Paragraph [0035] of the Yasuda:

[0030] A user can switch from the normal mode to the standby mode

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by operating a remote control, a main switch on the projector, or a display switch on a menu image projected on the screen (S201). Then, the projected image displayed on the screen is turned off or muted by displaying the projected image in black or on a blue background or by disposing a douser (a shielding plate) for cutting off the light path of the projection (S202).

[0035] The user can switch from the standby mode to the normal mode by operating the remote control, the main switch on the projector, or a display switch on a menu image projected on the screen (S208). In this way, the regulation of the electric power supplied to the discharge lamp 1 and the control of the rotational speed of the cooling fan 4 return to the normal mode (S209). Since, in the standby mode, the discharge lamp is in a low electric power state instead of being turned off completely, the display image from the projector reaches a predetermined brightness quickly and the projector enters into the normal mode (S210).

Yasuda only disclosed that a user can switch from the normal mode to standby mode or from standby mode to normal mode, neither the step of "searching a display signal", wherein the displaying apparatus is at one of a displaying state, a searching state, a no-signal state, and a video mute state", nor the step of "determining the state of the displaying apparatus" is suggested or taught from the Yasuda that it can perform.

The Examiner interpreted according to Yasuda: "[S]etting the lamp in either a first mode or a second mode wherein the brightness of the lamp at the first mode is different from the brightness at the second mode". **As required by the claimed invention, the lamp is set to the first mode as a consequence of finding that the display signal exists.** It should be noted that if the normal mode of the Yasuda is interpreted to be the

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first mode as set forth in claim 8, as asserted in the Office Action, before the normal mode being set, Yasuda should search the display signal and determine the state of the displaying apparatus in advance. That is, the first mode is set after the display signal is found existed by searching as required by claim 8. However, throughout the whole disclosure of the Yasuda, it is not suggested or taught from the Yasuda that before the operation of the lamp is in normal mode, the image projector 10 will conduct "searching a display signal" or "determining the state of the displaying apparatus" as required by claim 8.

Furthermore, as required in claim 8, once the lamp is set to the first mode, the lamp would be automatically set from the first mode to a second mode when the display signal does not exist, which are neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Yasuda, Kim, or any of the other cited references.

As such, Yasuda, Kim, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach each and every limitation of the present invention, as set forth in claim 8. Claim 8 and its dependent claims 12 and 13 should be allowable.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Kim.

Applicants submit that claim 13 indirectly depends on allowable independent claims 8, and thus should also be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1, 5-8 and 12-14 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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